

**Rand Communities Water District
Regular Board Meeting**

Date/Time: Wednesday, August 14, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Place: Rand Communities Water District Office
501 Comstock Avenue, Johannesburg, California

APPROVED MINUTES

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by President Cliff Kennedy at 7:01 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call. Present: President Cliff Kennedy, Vice President Ernest Napolis, Director Tom Williams, Director Ghulam Din, and Director Will Liebscher. Also present: General Manager Greg Thompson, Office Manager Debbie Jones, Board Secretary Carrie Hoerauf, and members of the public.

Adopt Agenda. The agenda was adopted as drafted. (Motion by Napolis, second by Williams; 5 ayes.)

Communications from the Public.

Dennis Stanley was heard, thanking RCWD for the loan of a pump which was used by China Lake Naval Weapons Station in an emergency situation after the earthquake. Nikki Goldfinch was heard, with three concerns. 1) Are safety meetings taking place? 2) Safety gear required (PPE Level D, hardhats, boots, reflective vests) when operating equipment. 3) Water lines blocked by shipping containers which would make repairs difficult or impossible.

Discussion regarding blocked water lines took place. There are some water lines blocked by shipping containers, fences, and even a mobile home.

These places need to be identified, and have a letter sent to notify the owner that structures need to be moved.

A decision was made by that the General Manager identify all those properties that have infringements on main lines, whether easily removable or semi-permanent, identify them, construct a letter letting them know we desire to have them moved, send it, and report back to us what the findings are on that. (Motion by Napolis, second by Williams; 5 ayes. This topic to be added to agenda for September meeting.)

Correspondence. There was no correspondence to review.

Approve Minutes of July 10, 2019 Regular Board Meeting. The minutes of the July 10, 2019 Regular Board meeting were approved. (Motion by Williams, second by Liebscher; 4 aye: Kennedy, Williams, Din, Liebscher; 1 abstain: Napolis who was not in attendance at 7/10/19 meeting).

General Manager's Report <insert>

Request for one time use of Catastrophic Water Loss for Meredith Post was approved. (Motion by Napolis, second by Din; all ayes.)

General Manager's Needs Report. The Board approved expenses for painting of tanks. (Motion by Napolis, second by Williams; 4 ayes: Kennedy, Williams, Napolis, Liebscher; 1 nay: Din).

Proposed revision to Bylaws – to change official mailing address to Johannesburg. The Board voted to approve changing the official mailing address from Randsburg to Johannesburg. (Motion by Napolis, second by Williams, 4 ayes: Kennedy, Napolis, Williams, Liebscher; 1 nay: Din.)

Bills paid. Bills were submitted with invoices and checks were signed.

Grant Update: Cliff Kennedy gave an update on the recent conference call/meeting which was attended by every entity involved in the grant – BLM, engineers, State, Edison, etc. All parties are on the same page and moving forward. The \$40,000 mentioned in prior meetings will be paid by the grant funds. Some changes will be coming about from Edison, the issues regarding power will be figured out when everything is done.

Audit Update: Office Manager Debbie Jones reported that the audit of 2017/18 books is in progress, and the auditors will be in the office on August 28/29, 2019 for a final visit.

Grand Jury Update: The Grand Jury made a posting on their website listed as a “final report” which was their original findings and RCWD’s response letter – no new information. A decision was made that Secretary Hoerauf will contact the Grand Jury via email to inquire regarding the status. (Motion by Napolis, second by Williams; 3 ayes: Kennedy, Napolis, Williams, 2 nays: Din, Liebscher.)

Budget for FY 2019/20. Board members who had reviewed the draft budget submitted gave written comments/questions to GM Greg Thompson; this item tabled until next month.

Employee Manual - Proposed revision to reflect change to Employee Insurance section; and need for update of entire manual. This item was tabled until next month to give Board members a chance to carefully review the two-sentence item, and to consider adding a waiting period.

Water theft – follow up on prior cases. This topic was not addressed.

Board Member Ethics -- causes for censure or expelling; need for establishing Board Member Manual/Policies. A three-part motion was made by Kennedy (seconded by Williams):

1. that Board members William Liebscher and Ghulam Din be censured for appearing in a proceeding against the District, and that if any Board member appear against the District in any future proceeding, it shall be cause for being expelled from the Board, by means of a trial at a separate meeting and by a majority vote.
2. that it shall be a specific Board policy that Board members may not appear in any hearing against the District.
3. that a Board Policy manual be prepared for review by the Board.

Discussion took place, including whether it is possible to have a closed session to discuss this matter. It was decided to table this motion and put this topic on the agenda next month (motion by Napolis, second by Williams; 5 ayes).

Future agenda items. (Next Regular Board meeting is September 11, 2019). Topics include: employee reviews, CSDA, Budget, Water loss – checking each meter, water theft at tanks, follow up on water theft cases, ethics, revision to employee manual, water lines blocked by structures, updates on grant, audit and Grand Jury.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM. (Motion by Din, second by Napolis; 5 ayes.)

ATTEST:

Carrie Hoerauf, Secretary
RCWD Board of Directors

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